

*B. Lilliman for C. V. Haven
With the best regards of his
friend P. Parker.*

THE

NINTH REPORT

OF THE

OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL

AT CANTON,

For the quarterly term ending Dec. 31st, 1838.

BY THE REV. P. PARKER, M. D.

CANTON:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CHINESE REPOSITORY.

.....
1839.



THE
NINTH REPORT
OF THE
OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL
AT CANTON,

For the quarterly term ending Dec. 31st, 1838.

BY THE REV. P. PARKER, M. D.
“ ”

CANTON:
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CHINESE REPOSITORY.

.....
1839.

RE 16

P22

839

REPORT.

To the friends and supporters of the Medical Missionary Society in China, the following report will afford new pleasure. It evinces the steadily advancing influence and importance of the Society's operations. The growing confidence reposed by the people in the skill of the *foreign* surgeon has been strongly displayed, in the degree of readiness with which they submit to painful operations, and even to the loss of limbs — although this is so greatly opposed to their prejudices, as well as to their principle, that the body, received perfect in form from one's parents, should be committed in no less perfection of form to its last resting place in the womb of earth. A Chinese female (the first, so far as we know, at least in modern times) has submitted to the amputation of her right arm; and four others have undergone extirpation of their breasts, on account of cancerous disease in an advanced stage.—Their increasing reliance on the western physician's knowledge of disease and its cures has been shown, in the accession of an unusually large number of official persons, some of them men of high station.

Among these, may be mentioned Wang, acting judicial commissioner of this province, who was first seen, at the commercial house of one of the hong merchants. The chief object of this gentleman was to be enabled so to appear and report of himself before the emperor, that want of health might not stand in the way of his promotion. He was immensely corpulent, and his chair was carried by four bearers (the number allotted to his rank), with an equal number of supporters. His complaint was hemiplegia. His desires were very moderate: it would entirely satisfy him if he could but walk

twenty rods, and be enabled to go through the requisite ceremonies of kneeling and bowing in the presence of his superiors. As he is still under treatment the particulars of his case will be given hereafter. Another visitor of rank was Lew, the chief magistrate of the district in which the factories are placed, and the officer, consequently, who appeared, so acceptably to foreigners—to disperse the mob collected before the factories—on the memorable 12th of Dec., when a little longer delay might have placed the lives and property of foreigners in imminent jeopardy. The application of this officer is especially interesting, as, from his situation, he is the proper authority to take cognizance of the hospital, had it fallen, as an innovation, under the displeasure of the local government. But by personally receiving aid from it, and by speaking of it in terms of commendation to his friends, he is virtually sanctioning it, and giving it influence among the people, by whom it is extensively known that through it he has been essentially benefitted. His nephew and several of his friends have also been received as patients, and some are still under medical treatment. In one of his visits he likewise introduced Hingan, a footsäng or colonel, who had recently been in command of the forces stationed in defence of the capital of Kwangse, and was then on his way to Peking. This officer was suffering from rheumatism: as he did not return a second time, he was probably compelled to continue his journey to Peking sooner than he had at first anticipated. One other officer may here be named—Lew, seunpoo (a civilian, whose function is nearly that of a European aid-de-camp) to the governor of these provinces. Unlike the others just mentioned—who have preferred their requests for medical attendance through Howqua, or some other of the hong² merchants, and have arranged to be seen at the commercial houses of those gentlemen, in preference to coming with the multitude to the hospital—this officer came to the institution, and on one occasion remained to witness the operations that were being performed. He was much interested to see the depression of a cataract, to hear the patient, who had been blind for several years, exclaim, immediately on the removal of the needle, ‘I see light,’ and to observe her count, in a minute after, the fingers held up before her. He was particular in his inquiries, wishing to know how long she had been blind, if much harm would not follow the operation, &c. On his return, a week after, he found the patient had already been discharged, not the slightest inflammation having followed, and her sleep at night not having been in the least degree disturbed.

These encouraging circumstances notwithstanding, it ought not to be supposed that all prejudice is yet overcome. Instances to the contrary *occasionally* occur. At the particular desire of a friend, a brother of one of the hong merchants, who was considered dangerously ill, requested to be attended, at his own house. He was found very sick, but apparently not beyond the power of European medicine to recover. A favorable prognosis was given, which had the undesirable effect of encouraging him to try native remedies still longer. The danger of a day's delay was pointed out: it might involve fatal consequences: it would be the height of folly to defer calling a fire-engine to a burning house until after all other means of extinguishing the flames should be first tried — an argument likely to be well understood by a Chinese: but remonstrances were in vain. "The foreigner's prescription," said the sufferer, "I cannot read, and how can I know what he is giving me." It is in accordance with Chinese habits to see the prescriptions of their own physicians, and of men acquainted with books, many have studied the different medical theories that are upheld among them, and pretend to some knowledge of the pulse, the diseases of which it affords diagnosis, and the appropriate remedies. Yielding to his prejudices, the patient, after trying a little longer his own physicians, died a victim to his folly. Just before his death, he desired the foreign physician to be again called in, but it was then too late.

The first instance of death, supervening upon an operation, the circumstances of which will be hereafter given, has occurred during the past term, and the result also illustrates the degree of confidence that generally exists. The husband was asleep by the patient's side when she died. On being informed of her decease, he pointed upward, saying, "*heaven has determined it*," and so far from regretting the operation, he justly remarked, "she would not have lived so long as she has done, but for the medicine and care she has received at the hospital." A similar event in any European hospital could not have been attended with less unpleasantness, or have been better understood. The same operation, too, has since been submitted to with all the confidence and cheerfulness manifested at previous ones.

The expenses for the term have been as follows:—

Rent of hospital	-	-	\$125
Board, fuel, &c.	-	-	109
Native assistants	-	-	78
Medicines, &c.	-	-	14.50
			————— 316.50

During the months of July, August, and September, the hospital was closed and under repair, and that at Macao was meanwhile opened, as shown by the Report of that hospital already published.

The patients that have been admitted during the term are 505; the aggregate since the opening of the institution is 6300. The following is a tabular statement of the numbers of each disease that have come under observation during the past term.

<i>Diseases of the Eye.</i>		Night blindness - - -		1
Granulations - - -	18	Fungus hæmatodes - - -		1
Ektropia - - -	1	Loss of one eye - - -		22
Entropia - - -	46	Loss of both eyes - - -		12
Trichiasis - - -	1	<i>Diseases of the Ear.</i>		
Lippitudo - - -	15	Deafness - - -		5
Xeroma - - -	1	Otorrhea - - -		1
Hordeolum - - -	1	Meatus auditorius wanting		1
Excrescences of the lids -	1	<i>Miscellaneous Diseases.</i>		
Quivering lids - - -	1	Inflammatory disorders:		
Paralysis of muscles -	1	Rheumatism - - -		6
Obstruction of nasal duct -	3	Thrush - - -		2
Disease of caruncula lacrymalis	2	Abscesses - - -		5
Ophthalmia, Acute - - -	21	Arthritis - - -		2
— Chronic - - -	84	Fistulæ Mammæ - - -		1
— Purulent - - -	3	Fistula (in ano) - - -		1
— Scrofulous - - -	2	Ulcers (chiefly of lower in extremities) - - -		3
Ophthalmitis - - -	1	Ulceration of fauces		1
Pterygia - - -	22	Inflammation of fauces		1
Acute inflammation of the cornea - - -	1	Constitutional diseases:		
Nebulæ - - -	44	Ascites - - -		2
Ulceration of the cornea	2	Anasarca - - -		6
Opacity of cornea - - -	3	Opium mania - - -		8
Leucoma - - -	1	Scrofula - - -		9
Staphyloma - - -	20	Diseases of the organs of		
Iritis, chronic - - -	3	Circulation:		
Synechia Anterior - - -	5	Palpitation of heart - - -		1
— Posterior - - -	5	Diseases of the organs of		
Closed pupil - - -	2	Respiration:		
Choroiditis - - -	1	Chronic Bronchitis - - -		1
Cataracts - - -	44	Diseases of Digestive organs:		
Glaucoma - - -	2	Diarrhea - - -		2
Muscae volitantes - - -	2	Worms - - -		4
Myosis - - -	3	Diseases of the Liver:		
Amaurosis - - -	4	Chronic Ind. and enlargement of Liver - - -		1
— Partial - - -	2			
Myopia - - -	2			
Day blindness - - -	1			

Diseases of the Generative organs :			Preternatural and diseased growths :		
Fistula Urethræ - - -	1		Horny excrescence on head	1	
Urinary calculi - - -	1		Polypi, nasal - - -	1	
Bubo - - - - -	1		Tumors, Sarcomatous - -	2	
Diseases of the Nervous system :			— Cutaneous - - -	11	
Paralysis - - - - -	1		Hydatid of breast - -	1	
Cutaneous diseases :			Scirrhus of breast - -	5	
Tinea capitis - - -	4		Goitre - - - - -	1	
Scabies - - - - -	3		Hypertrophy of the arm	1	
Lichen circinatus - -	1		Atrophy of the arm - -	2	
Various - - - - -	4		Injuies :		
Diseases of the Bones :			Fracture of radius and ulna	1	
Osteo-sarcoma - - -	1		Disease of chest from bursting		
Disease of hip joint -	2		of a gun - - - - -	1	
Caries of femur - - -	1		Curvature of spine - -	1	
— of submaxillary -	1		Excision of tongue - -	1	
			Injury from violent exercise	1	

Case of Tinqua. (See the second quarterly report, case No. 1243.) Mortification of the right foot. Immediately after arriving from Macao, in the beginning of October, a message was received, stating that this old gentleman had a foot in an advanced stage of disease, and was anxious to have it examined without delay. He was greatly delighted when I called, and said he had desired to send for me to Macao, but was told that I could not leave hundreds for him a single individual. Mortification had already far advanced. The great toe, and the toe adjoining, had sloughed off, and the blueness extended up the ball of the foot and had involved two other toes. No regard had been paid to his bowels. *Ginseng* was their sheet anchor, and except a few similar drugs their only remedy. His pulse was on some days quite imperceptible below the bend of the elbow, particularly in the left arm. The nature of the disease was explained to him, that it was *inexpedient* to amputate the leg, but his only hope was in restoring the tone of the digestive organs, and rousing the system generally, with the desire, that a line of separation might be formed, if not at the metatarsal joints, at least at the ankle. Blue pill, with minute quantities of croton oil, was employed as an aperient, he being unwilling to take salts or castor oil. His native physician was allowed to continue his ginseng, &c., showing me his prescriptions daily. Tonics, port wine, tincture of gentian, and preparation of iron, were administered internally, and flaxseed and port wine poultices were applied to his foot. The old man sent his sedan

chair morning and evening, and I as often attended the dressing of his foot. In one week the foot and general symptoms were decidedly improved, and the last day but one of my attendance, as I entered his apartment, he said with much animation, "You are my doctor," and repeated it several times. But the next day, through the interference as it afterwards appeared, of his female supernumeraries, he requested me to cease my visits for two days, during which he wished to do nothing to his foot. However, I called, desiring to see him without prescribing, and with some hesitancy was admitted, when it appeared that his foot had been dressed by a native doctress, who had put on an indefinite quantity and variety of salves. The old man seemed dejected and scarcely spoke aloud. I saw him but once after this, and then in company with one of his oldest European friends, when it was plainly pointed out to him, that by the course he was pursuing, he was leaving the disease to itself, that the treatment was utterly futile, but that if he would resume that under which he had begun to amend, there was still hope for him. He seemed obliged for the call, and had he been as independent as when in health, no doubt he would have accepted the counsel that was overruled by his domestic cabinet. On the 20th November he died, and the usual obsequies were such as to comport with his rank and opulence while alive. Had leisure permitted, it would have been interesting to witness the ceremonies from time to time, and to obtain a full account of them; particularly as showing a coincidence between the obsequies of the Chinese, and the *εταφια* of the ancient Greeks, who are said to have been accustomed to bury with their dead, horses, clothes, arms, also the gifts of friends, and whatever was dear to the deceased. Some days elapsed before calling at the house of the deceased. The numerous presents of friends were then pointed out, such as tablets with the most flattering eulogies, as well as servants, men and women; animals, as the swan, the crane, the peacock, goats, horses, &c., all of paper, intended to be sent by fire to serve the convenience and gratification of the deceased in the other world. The most striking thing was the pile of his official robes from his large full boots, to the button upon his cap, also of paper. And over the urn in which all were to be burnt, was his title, and the year when he received it, with a small scroll like parchment containing a facsimile of his official diploma, duly signed and sealed, so that on claiming, in that world to which he had gone, the rank he held in this, his credentials would be complete. This man had associated with foreigners for some forty years, and amassed an inde-

pèndent fortune. He was distinguished for his decision of character, and for his good sense upon all the ordinary affairs of life, and yet, this is his end; and these the hopes and prospects, at least in his friends' estimation, with which he has entered eternity!

No. 5707. Oct. 27th, 1838. Scirrhus breast. Lew Fuh, aged 50, of Seheä, a village in Pwanyu, had had a scirrhus affection of her right breast for six months. At the time of entering the hospital it was very large and hard. The integument over it was entirely involved in the disease; it presented a singularly rough and red, warty surface, and there was a foul discharge. The whole was firmly adherent to the base. Axillary glands much enlarged and indurated. The patient was very corpulent. At times she experienced sharp shooting pains. Pulse very feeble but quick; tolerably good appetite. Little encouragement was given that it could be extirpated with success. She was permitted, however, to remain in the hospital in order to try the efficacy of pressure. Blue pill and extract of colocynth, combined with small quantities of opium, were prescribed, to be taken occasionally. Also two grains of extract of conium, three times daily, and one grain of extract of hyosciamus at bedtime. Carrot poultices were applied by night, and firm pressure by day. Decided improvement was soon apparent, the breast diminished and became less fixed. On the 2d November the patient rubbed the breast with her garments and caused a hemorrhage of several ounces. The Chinese dresser applied a solution of alum which arrested the bleeding, but the patient complained of much pain for half an hour. On the 5th December, in removing the dressing, a still more copious hemorrhage was produced. The pulse was but sixty, and very feeble, on the 6th December, when the patient was furnished with the same medicines which she had been taking, and advised to go home for one week, continuing the bandaging and poultices.

She returned as directed, improved by the change of air; but on the 16th December, had a *spontaneous* hemorrhage of twelve or fifteen ounces, which left her very weak and pale; and it was obvious that a few more such drafts of blood would be fatal. It was then decided, if she should in any good degree rally, before a recurrence of the bleeding, to remove the breast, as the only chance of protracting her life. Accordingly, on the 22d December, the breast was extirpated. The husband was made acquainted with the critical condition of his wife, that a speedy fatal termination was probable if the disease was left to itself, but possibly the removal might be successful. He gave the usual indemnity.

The breast, and also the glands of the axilla, were removed with facility, and with much less apparent suffering, than another woman had experienced from the same operation immediately before. But on making the first incision, one of the gentlemen assisting exclaimed, "What have we here! this is not blood." The fluid from the veins appeared like bloody water. The wound was soon dressed, and the patient was placed comfortably in bed, and the same gentleman expressed it as his opinion that she would recover more rapidly than the other. She continued comfortable, and three hours after the operation took some congee, and seemed to like it; but at 9 o'clock P. M., her respiration became labored, the pulse languid, and extremities cold. Warm brandy and water were given, hot water was applied to her feet and hands, and she was thus rendered more comfortable. On returning to the hospital, one hour after, the pulse was found feeble and breathing more difficult, but the other patient was heard, in a room beyond, vomiting, and, regarding her as most needing attention, this patient was left. In about fifteen minutes, the vomiting of the other having been checked, I returned to this patient, and found her already dead!

The corpse in a little time was removed to a retired room, where it remained till preparations could be made for its burial. The bereaved husband felt very sensibly his affliction. They had lived together in great harmony for nearly thirty years. He had already become care-worn with his most assiduous attentions to her day and night during her sickness; and so far from being dissatisfied, he often spoke of the trouble he was causing. After the customary mourning was over, he returned and repeated the expression of his sense of obligations.

No. 5721. Oct. 30th, 1838. Osteo-medullary sarcoma of the right wrist. Leäng Yen, aged 34, from the neighborhood of Hwate, 'the flower gardens.' In October 1837, the disease commenced, at the head of the radius, and it had gradually increased until it now measured one foot seven inches around the wrist, and about the same at its base. It had never been remarkably painful, neither had the discharge of blood been great. The patient's countenance was very sallow, and face and extremities generally œdematous, particularly on the right side. The monthly discharges were interrupted about the time the disease began. The patient had a morbid appetite, eating as much as in health. Pulse feeble and frequent; occasionally a few grains of blue pill and colocynth were administered, and opiates at night, with a view of improving her general health. Seve-

ral medical gentlemen saw the patient, and among them Dr. Guilbert of the French frigate *L'Artemise*. All were agreed that it was advisable to amputate the arm, without delay. Though the patient did not understand what was spoken, she learned or surmised, from a gesture inadvertently made, that amputation was proposed, and with great determination subsequently remarked to another, that she would sooner die than submit to the operation. In a few days the state of the case was explained to her, that in the opinion of several medical men she could not live long unless the arm was removed, that the operation would not be extremely painful, and that it was her only chance for protracting life. She urged her helplessness without her right hand, but admitted it was better that one limb should be sacrificed, than the whole body. However, in a few days, she resolved to go home. After some twenty days she returned, manifestly improved in her health from the medicine she had taken, though the fungus had increased. The operation was again proposed to her and her husband. Each consented, but as it was an extraordinary affair he wished first to consult her relations. He did so, and wrote back that they confided entirely in my judgment, but ill health prevented his return.

The patient still consented; the 5th December was fixed upon for the operation, and on the previous evening everything was in readiness; but the next morning when visited, she, with a toss of her head, emphatically exclaimed, "No cutting! no cutting!" and holding up two fingers she added, "give 200 dollars and you may." This patient is an exception to all that have ever yet visited the hospital. She quite misunderstood the kindness that had been shown her. Food, and a female servant to attend constantly upon her, had been provided; and — when, hearing that her husband's health would not permit him to return to see the operation, she expressed a fear that if he was absent, and she should not perfectly recover, he might decline supporting her—she was assured that if he deserted her, she should be provided for. It seemed at this time that she thought me anxious to mutilate her, and that I would give her price to do it. This, however, she subsequently disclaimed, and said that it had been suggested to her by another, that if she could obtain this sum, it would make her independent of her husband for support. In a few days the man came, and begged my forgiveness, and observed that it was not the Chinese custom to expect the physician to pay for healing his patient. She also seemed ashamed for her ingratitude; and both desired that the arm should be amputated, and gave the usual indem-

nity, which was the more necessary as the patient had by long delay become very feeble. She was just able to be lifted from her bed to the table. A medical gentleman who saw her on Monday, learning that it was proposed to amputate the arm on Wednesday, expressed his opinion, that she would not live to see the day. It was noticeable a few days before this, that the pulse at the bend of the right arm was only 90, while it was 112 in the wrist of the other; but the momentum was proportionably greater in the right arm. On the 12th December, during the time of the attempted execution of an opium dealer, and the consequent riot, in the front of the factories, all was quiet at the hospital, and the operation was performed. The arm was removed by the flap operation, four inches above the elbow. An opiate was administered half an hour before the time for operation, also five grains of blue pill, and ten of ext. of rhubarb. The patient after her decision was fully formed contemned the idea of pain, and at the moment of sawing the bone inquired when that part of the process would take place. She had a comfortable night following, and the bowels were moved in the morning, her pulse being 114, and rather feeble. Her appetite soon became strong, and on the 15th was indulged quite to the jeopardy of her health, when, being called to her, the abdomen was found much distended, the pulse accelerated, skin hot, and respiration very difficult. An ounce of castor oil was immediately administered. The next morning she was again comfortable. On the 16th, the arm was dressed, and the lips of the wound had united to a considerable extent by first intention. On the 17th about noon I found her with a bowl of oily sausages, which she was devouring even without rice. When told not to eat them, she was much displeased, and quite lost her temper. For a few days she had diarrhea, which yielded to the effects of opium, hydrargyrum cum cretâ, and castor oil. On the 14th day after the operation the ligature came away, the wound being healed except at the point of the ligature. From the moment the arm was removed, the patient began to be convalescent, and she declared, she was more comfortable the night after the operation than on that preceding.

The examination of the forearm evinced the propriety of the amputation above the elbow. The disease evidently commenced in the marrow of the radius and near its head, and then involved the bones and soft parts in the common disease. The radius and ulna were diseased as far as the elbow, the marrow having assumed a brownish hue. The tumor was surrounded by a plate of bone the thickness of the pericranium, which being sawed through exposed a mass of mat-

ter of the consistency of brain. There were a few apertures at which this medullary substance had protruded and expanded itself like a mushroom.

About the 10th January, the patient was told that she might go home whenever she pleased, but she preferred remaining still longer where everything was provided for her.

On the 19th January, the husband having returned for her, she was discharged in excellent spirits, and both were very thankful. The action of the liver had been excited, her skin had become soft and natural, and the prospect is that she may live for years, and enjoy good health. The opportunity was improved in impressing upon them their obligations to the living God, and author of all their mercies.

No. 5723. Oct. 30th, 1838. Bite of a serpent. Leäng Lun, aged 54, of Shuntih, is a snake catcher by profession. On the 22d September, he was bitten by a venomous serpent, the woo-juh shay or black-flesh snake. It was now the thirty-ninth day after receiving the wound. From long familiarity with the snaky tribe, he had become too incautious, and grasped the serpent, with his hand at such a distance from the head as permitted it to seize the back of the hand. Immediately, the hand became swollen, and his sufferings were very great. He was unable to give any satisfactory account of the treatment adopted. He said, however, that every remedy had been employed with little success. The constitution had recovered in a measure from the shock, but the hand was much swollen, the fingers were large, stiff, and cold, the integuments of the back of the hand were destroyed, the tendons were exposed, and the general health was suffering.

Blue pill, ext. of colocynth, and glauber's salts, were given from time to time, and when the pain was excessive opium in pill. Emollient poultices, and leeches were repeatedly applied, and the hand elevated. Also at the suggestion of Dr. Guilbert of the Artemise, much benefit was derived from keeping the wound covered, when the poultice was not on, by a pledget of soft lint filled with the mucilage of linseed. Though that gentleman apprehended the ultimate loss of the fingers, he may be happy to learn, that the whole hand has been preserved, the wound has healed, and the patient, having abandoned his old pursuit, has become a chair-bearer, and enjoys the use of his hand, though the wound ulcerates occasionally.

No. 5770. Cancer. Yöke, aged 45, of Shaouking had a scirrhus affection of her left breast that commenced in May last. At first it was not larger than a betel nut, but now it involved the whole breast, and

the glands of the axilla and neck. The shoulder and arm were also much swollen. The integument of the breast was discolored and uneven, resembling on a large scale the pits of small pox, and the whole mass was very hard and painful. The pulse being 112, tongue natural, bowels free, and appetite good.

An unfavorable prognosis of course was given her, but she was permitted to remain a few days that she might see if her case could be palliated. Five grains of blue pill, and as many of colocynth were ordered for her, and two grains of the extract of conium maculatum three times daily and one of hyosciamus at bed-time. A lotion of creosote was applied to the breast, accompanied with pressure, the integument at points was soon destroyed, and a discharge excited. With the view of cleansing it, the carrot poultice was occasionally applied at night. On the 19th November, discontinued the conium, &c., and began with iodine, six drops only of the tincture three times daily in a wine glass of sweetened water, and an ounce of salts to be taken in the morning. No material change till Nov. 21st, when violent inflammation took place in the swollen arm. Pulse was 120, an ounce of castor oil was administered immediately, and ten drops of antimonial wine every hour, camomile tea ad libitum and a spirit lotion applied to the arm. At 8 o'clock P.M. the patient was better. At bed-time a full dose of calomel and jalap was given. Nov. 22d. The bowels were moved during the night, and early in the morning it was reported that she was better, and had eaten a bowl of congee; at a quarter before 11 A.M. her servant having gone below to prepare some tea for her, returned soon after and found her dead!

No. 5806. Fungus haematodes of the eye. Ho Mungmei, aged 76, a farmer of Tungkwan, had a fungus of the left eye, which began ten years since. It was of a circular form, about three and a half inches in diameter, and not broken. The patient was advised not to have anything done to it, except, as it was becoming more and more inflamed, to apply a lotion of the nitrate of potassa and occasionally to take a gentle aperient.

No. 5895. Fistulous breast. Chow Heä of Tsangching, aged 33, a boat-woman, presented her husband with three daughters at one birth, but being poor sent them all to the foundling hospital. Her breasts were neglected and became fistulous, the right mamma was perforated in many places when she came to the hospital, and the discharge of milk and pus was copious. With attention to her general health, and frequent injections of the solution of nitrate of silver

or sulphate of copper, and with gentle pressure, the sinuses healed up, and the breast was well again in about four weeks. Had she not so far lost the affections of a mother as to give up the whole trio of daughters, and had she retained but one of them, she probably would have escaped the suffering that she thus brought upon herself.

No. 5935. Hydatid of the breast. Tang Heaou is a maiden lady of Nanhae, in this province, aged 50. She first applied for the treatment of a chronic affection of the eyes, but becoming acquainted with others in the hospital who were under treatment for diseases of the breast, she at length overcame her diffidence, and disclosed the real object of her coming to Canton. Nothing very peculiar in the character of the disease, entitles her case to notice. A circumstance occurred, however, showing some of the fruits of the early propagators of the gospel in China, and renders the case an interesting one. The mammary glands of both sides were very small, the hydatid appeared much like a sarcomatous tumor occupying the place of the left breast, globular in form and about two or three inches in diameter. On the 19th December the operation was performed. Upon making the incisions, a quantity of gelatinous matter of various colors, white, yellow, and purple, and of firm consistency, escaped. The cyst was readily removed and the wound healed kindly and with great rapidity. On the first incision the patient exclaimed, "Jesus save me! Jesus save me!" and repeated the same words many times. Nothing could have been more unexpected. The difference of the deportment of this woman from other Chinese was very noticeable. She appeared sincere in her attachment to the Christian religion, and said several hundred in her neighborhood are of the same faith, and that it was 200 years since they had been in possession of their knowledge of the Savior. She repeatedly inquired for books, and for images of the Savior, and of the 'holy mother.'

No. 5874. Nov. 17th, 1838. Cancer of the breast. Soo He, 42 years old, of Pwanyu, a very robust and corpulent woman, had a cancerous disease of the breast, that began six months previously to her coming to the hospital. The breast was very large, red, and hard, and the glands of the armpit were also affected. The pain at times was very great. She was not encouraged at this time to expect that it could be removed, but was told that she might remain in the hospital a few days, and attempts should be made to allay the inflammation and retard the rapid progress of the disease. She was put upon a spare diet, and repeated purges and leeching were employed. At length an abscess formed, and as it broke and discharged, the inflam-

mation subsided and the whole mass of disease become more moveable, so that it seemed practicable to remove it all with the knife, which the patient was very desirous to have done.

December 22d, the same day that Lew Fuh was operated upon, her breast was removed. That morning the patient awoke in fine glee, and having made her toilet and painted her face, she placed a chair, laid out a mat, and requested 'the doctor' to sit down, that she might *kow tow*, that is bow her head to the floor. It was sad to think how insensible she was to the suffering before her. However, her courage only failed with the loss of blood and strength. The operation was unusually severe. On account of the corpulency of the patient, the previous inflammation, and subsequent ulceration, the tumor was not well defined. The extent of the incisions were of great extent from the axilla to the lower part of the breast, and very *deep* through the adipose substance. A cluster of inflamed glands of the armpit were also removed, and one of considerable size. The loss of blood was copious, and several arteries required ligature. After being dressed and laid in bed, she rejected the too hearty breakfast she had eaten, and for some hours complained of pain in her arm, but not in the wound. At 6 P. M. she became composed and grateful, and was lavish of her encomiums. "While the doctor is here, I have no fear. Had I not met with him, my disease must have proved fatal. *seen sang ta tan*, the doctor has much gall, i. e. great courage, to have undertaken the operation!"

At 10 P. M. vomiting recurred, pulse 120; gave two drops of creosote in pill. In a short time she voided a worm (lumbricus) from the mouth, after which she became more easy, but for 48 hours slept but little. Opium in any form did not agree with her. December 24th. Dressed the wound in the morning and removed all the sutures; gave her twenty drops of laudanum, which produced vertigo, so that the female servant became much alarmed, and, on my entering the room, was engaged in pinching the patient's nose and violently rubbing the temples with green ginger, which she had first masticated. She was told that it was the effect of the medicine, and she would soon be better. At 9 P. M. her pulse was 110, an even, easy pulse, with no great heat of skin, and rather moist. The patient constantly groaned but more especially when she was spoken to. In a few days she began to amend, healthy granulations sprung up, and large quantities of adipose substance and fascia came away. On the 21st January, she was discharged perfectly well, in excellent spirits and very thankful. She is naturally a woman of much nerve, great presence of mind, and decision of character.

It has been mentioned that this operation was performed the same afternoon that Lew Fuh's breast was removed. The two patients were in separate wards, and when the latter died, precautions were taken to conceal from the former the fact, lest she should be too much alarmed for herself; but a little girl indiscreetly, notwithstanding strict injunctions, informed her of the event. She, perceiving the dissatisfaction that had been occasioned by the child's indiscretion, in place of showing any alarm, said, "It is of no consequence, I am aware of the difference in our cases; she has been past recovery for some days; she was older than myself, and upon the operation table she was not sensible to pain; to feel pain (in such circumstances) is better; our symptoms are not alike, and I am no way alarmed." As her breast was dressed one day she remarked that the goddess of mercy, whom she consulted, told her she should recover in the foreigner's hands, and that the winter season was also favorable. She was told it was the *living God* of mercy to whom she was indebted, and not to any idol. She rejoined with much emphasis, "*Kwanyin haou*," the *goddess of mercy is good*, and repeated it. That her recovery under these circumstances should confirm her faith in the idol is not surprising, though it is painful that the gratitude due to God should thus be lavished upon imaginary deities. Subsequently to her return home, which was on the 12th January, she returned in blooming health and vigor, and made the hall of the institution resound with her expressions of gratitude. She also brought a present of fruits and other trifles. She remarked that for several days her house was thronged by visitors from her village to see what had been done for her. She left an invitation to come and dine at her house, which is about four miles distant.

No. 5943. Dec. 23d. Excision of the tongue. Tsung Kin, aged 22, is of Haenan, a fruiterer. This young man had been sick of pulmonary consumption for more than a year. Some altercation taking place between him and his parent one day, the latter said, "it is better that you should die," which so irritated the son that he expressed himself harshly; and subsequently reflecting upon his undutiful conduct, he was much chagrined, and as a self-punishment cut completely off half an inch of the end of his tongue! They represented the hemorrhage as being very copious, but this was arrested by a styptic of a native physician, which was of a highly astringent nature. Some of the same was afterwards obtained, but its composition is a secret, and the property of the man who sells it. It somewhat resembled coarse yellow snuff, adhered firmly to the wound

and formed a strong coagulum with the blood, and sufficient was added to supply the place of the piece of tongue lost. It was six and thirty hours after the event when I was first called to this patient, the tongue was of its natural shape, tipped with black. The patient and friends were much alarmed at this time, but they were assured nothing was to be apprehended from the wound of the tongue, but the original disease was of an aggravated character. The next day the styptic came away, a solution of the nitras argenti having been used a few times. The wound appeared healthy, but the other symptoms increased in severity, and in about one week the patient died. Two days after, his brother returned and requested the piece of tongue (which had been preserved in spirit), that it might be buried with the body, urging that for a person to be *minus* one member was very bad.

No. 5985. Horn upon the crown of the head. Chow Keätseuen, aged 31, a florist, of Shuntih, had a horn upon his head just to the right of the "bump of veneration." The patient stated, that some years since he had an encysted tumor upon his head, the integument of which was destroyed by escharotics and the fluid escaped. The germ of the horn was thus exposed. Its growth had been gradual. Sometime previous to coming to the hospital half an inch or more had been cut off. At this time the remaining truncated cone was a full inch high and two inches in circumference, at the base. It was of a yellow white color, and of the usual hardness of horn. It was attached wholly to the integument of the scalp, and gave great pain if pulled. Dec. 19th it was removed. Two elliptical incisions were made so as to take out the whole of the integument in which it originated. This was preternaturally soft, and the veins and arteries were unusually large and numerous. The wound was brought completely together by sutures and adhesive straps, and in about one week it was quite well.

No. 6071. Dec. 14th. Tumor pendulous from the upper lip. Kwō Pe, aged 27, of Shuntih. Seven years since, this amiable young woman found a tumor commencing on the right side of the upper lip. It had now attained the size of her fist, and hung pendulous, reaching below the chin, and carrying the under lip to the left side; it not only greatly disfigured her, but impeded her speech, and required to be supported when she ate. Dec. 19th the tumor was removed by the hare lip operation, two arteries of considerable size were divided; one needle was introduced, and two or three sutures. A sufficiency of the upper lip was preserved to bring the point of union to the angle of the

mouth, so that when united there seemed to have been but one incision from that point, straight to the outer edge of the nose. Dec. 22d. The third day from the operation, the first time of dressing, the needle was removed. The wound had nearly healed by first intention, and on the 5th, only a piece of sticking plaster was required. In a few days more she was discharged perfectly well, and her natural features nearly restored. She showed her gratitude and respect by *not kow-towing*, knowing that it was offensive.

No. 6100. Dec. 24th, 1838. Constipation and nephritis. Lew, magistrate of Nanhæ, which comprises half the city of Canton, and the district lying west and northwest of it. He is commonly called simply the Nanhæ. This morning Howqua, the senior hong merchant, sent a request that I would call at his house to see the Nanhæ, who was desirous of consulting me professionally. At 2 o'clock P.M. a messenger was sent to announce the gentleman's arrival. On entering the room where he was, he rose with great deliberation and saluting me, in a common complimentary expression, said, that "he had long been looking up to me."

The account which he gave of himself, and of the treatment which had been adopted, was as follows:

"That his illness commenced on the 10th of August last, at which time he suffered much from bodily heat and perspiration; but had no chills. In the course of a few days his spirits failed. For a couple of days at this time he was much troubled with eructations. It was not till after ten days that his bowels were opened,—when he obtained some relief. Another period of seven or eight days then elapsed, before his bowels were again opened; after which his feverish feelings left him, and he was able to take some food with comfort. He was, however, greatly troubled with phlegm, and cough at night. His mouth was dry, but without much thirst.

"On the 29th of Aug. he began to move about a little. The physicians said that his pulse was good, but the blood and aëration were deficient, and directed him to take astringent medicines, as Corean ginseng, &c., &c.

"After taking prescriptions of this kind ten or twelve times, he was troubled with feebleness of the thighs and legs, and on this account took in addition 'tiger's bones' and hartshorn.

"At the end of September, he began to go out, and to attend to his official duties, and from this time forward he had to be out every day. About the middle of October he became sensible of great susceptibility to fatigue in his limbs and body, demanding frequent rest in

a reclining posture. To this succeeded a sense of heaviness about the sacrum, as also pains between the ribs and in the abdomen; constipation followed for a period of upwards of 20 days! Some fragrant powders were administered; and he then found these ailments somewhat abated, namely, the heaviness and pain, and the constipation. But he never felt the loins altogether easy. At the same time, however, there was pain neither in the sinews nor in the bones. After the long constipation had been overcome, his bowels continued to be opened once in about ten days."

Such were the symptoms and progress of his disease for more than 100 days, previous to his applying to me. At this time he complained most of pain and stiffness of the back, disabling him from performing the usual ceremonies of bowing and kneeling, as is required in his official station. There were also occasional pains in the iliac regions. His pulse was 96. His tongue was coated, his eyes turgid, and his appetite indifferent. There had been inflammation of the kidneys, and at this time the purulent deposition in his urine was very abundant.

An aperient of blue pill and colocynth was ordered immediately, and the next day, the following:

R. Pill. Hydragari. c. cretâ	gr. xl.
Gum. alo. soc.	gr. vijii.
Ant. tart.	gr. ji.

Fiat massa, in pillulas duodecem dividenda, S. One to be taken every night.

R Pulv. urvae. ursi.	oz ss.
Pulv. Doveri.	gr. xlvjii.

Fiat pulvis, in chartulas duodecem dividendus. One to be taken thrice daily in a cup of tea.

A small quantity of strong mercurial ointment was to be applied over the liver with friction every morning, and a large plaster, (emplast. ferri. oxidj. rubri.) was applied to the lumbar region, and worn daily. One ounce of castor oil was to be taken every other day, if the bowels were not opened without it. Strict attention was to be paid to his diet and regimen. He was allowed to eat mutton, poultry, and wild game, rarely cooked and in moderate quantities; also ripe fruits, as apples and pears cooked, and dates and grapes, avoiding oily and salt provisions. Spices, as cinnamon, nutmegs, and astringent articles generally, were prohibited. He was requested to take exercise in the open air daily.

During the interim of his visits, he sent written reports of himself,

by which his immediate and rapid amendment was shown. This treatment was continued till the 31st Dec., when the Nanhæ made his second visit, and expressed himself much obliged for the relief he had already experienced. At this time the *uvæ ursi* was omitted : a free use of mucilage of gum Arabic, with fifteen drops tincture of digitalis, and five of balsam copaiba thrice a day, were substituted. In fourteen days the urine became nearly natural.

In a week from the previous date, he made his third and last visit, accompanied by Hingan, the military officer of Kwangse already alluded to. A remarkable improvement was apparent at first glance. The use of his limbs was much easier. The lively expression of his countenance, and the sparkling of his eyes, strikingly contrasted with the downcast look and vacant eye noticed at his first visit ; and he did not fail to express, both in words and actions, his sense of obligation. Essentially the same treatment was continued another week, though from this time the Nanhæ seemed to consider himself *convalescent*.—Presently inquiries were privately made, as to what present would be most acceptable. It was stated most explicitly that none was desired, that it was a sufficient reward to know, that his health was restored. Official gentlemen often alluded to the recovery of their friend Lew, otherwise I did not hear more of him till the approach of the Chinese new year, when, notwithstanding the wish expressed to the contrary, his present was sent. It consisted of a brace of wethers ; two boxes of tea ; two sets of porcelain cups and saucers, such as are used in this country ; and two pieces of silk : also ten Spanish dollars for the young men in the hospital. The *money* was returned. Similar presents of silk and porcelain were sent to the gentlemen who had kindly acted as interpreters, and who had translated the prescriptions and correspondence with the Nanhæ, who does not speak the dialect of this province. It is due to one of these gentlemen to mention, that it was he who suggested to this officer, whom he met at the city gate, the idea of seeking foreign aid.

A supply of medicines, with directions for occasional use were sent him through Howqua, with a note acknowledging his presents, and stating that they were accepted only as an expression of his sentiments, and that *remuneration* was not desired : also conveying to him the fact that the object of the institution is strictly benevolent.

The erroneous deductions that have been made, here and elsewhere, from the small number of opium patients, deserve correction. The institution is ostensibly for the cure of *ophthalmic diseases* : all other affections are exceptions. Of more than 6000 patients but

about half a dozen cases of fevers are reported; yet Canton and its vicinity enjoy no peculiar exemption from this class of diseases. So of all diseases — excepting those of the eye, and others strictly surgical — very few of them are ever noticed in the institution. It is evident, therefore, that the *ophthalmic* hospital affords no criteria, by which we can ascertain the number of opium smokers, who are suffering from that habit. Besides the specific character of the hospital, it should be known, that comparatively few of the victims to the opium mania have moral resolution remaining sufficient to attempt an emancipation from its most deplorable effects. Personal observation has furnished abundant evidence of the appalling extent of the evil. Repeated instances have occurred in which officers have assured me they have been addicted to the vice, some 20 and others 30 years and more, and though they would give large sums of money never to have formed the habit, they despair of recovering from it. To say that tens of thousands in this city and vicinity, including women as well as men, use the drug, would, it is believed, be a moderate estimate. In some other districts and provinces the number is said to be still greater than in Canton.

RE 16

P22

839

Handwritten text, possibly a title or date, located in the upper left corner.

Handwritten text, possibly a date or page number, located below the first line of text.

